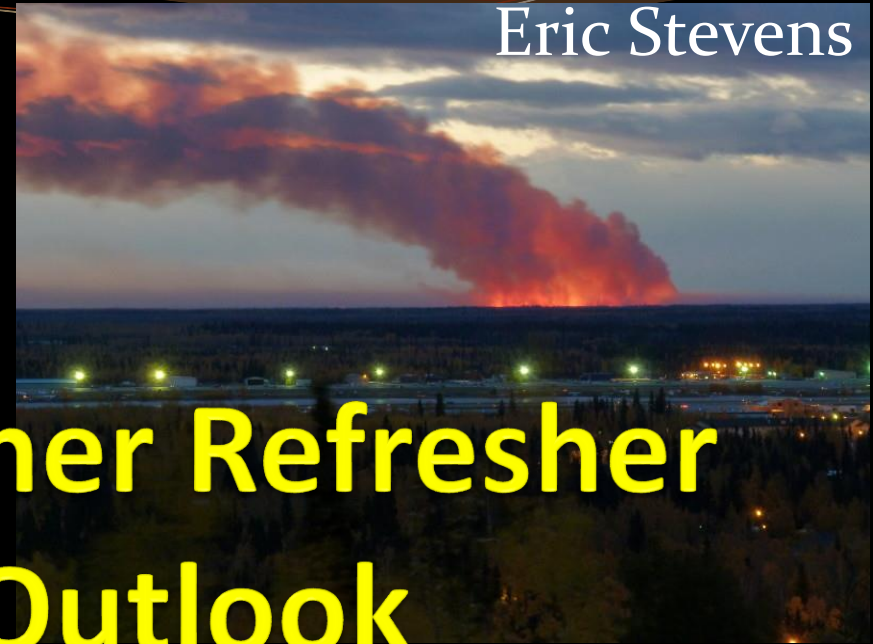


Heidi Strader and
Eric Stevens

2020 Fire Weather Refresher Seasonal Outlook



Outlook

Will we burn?

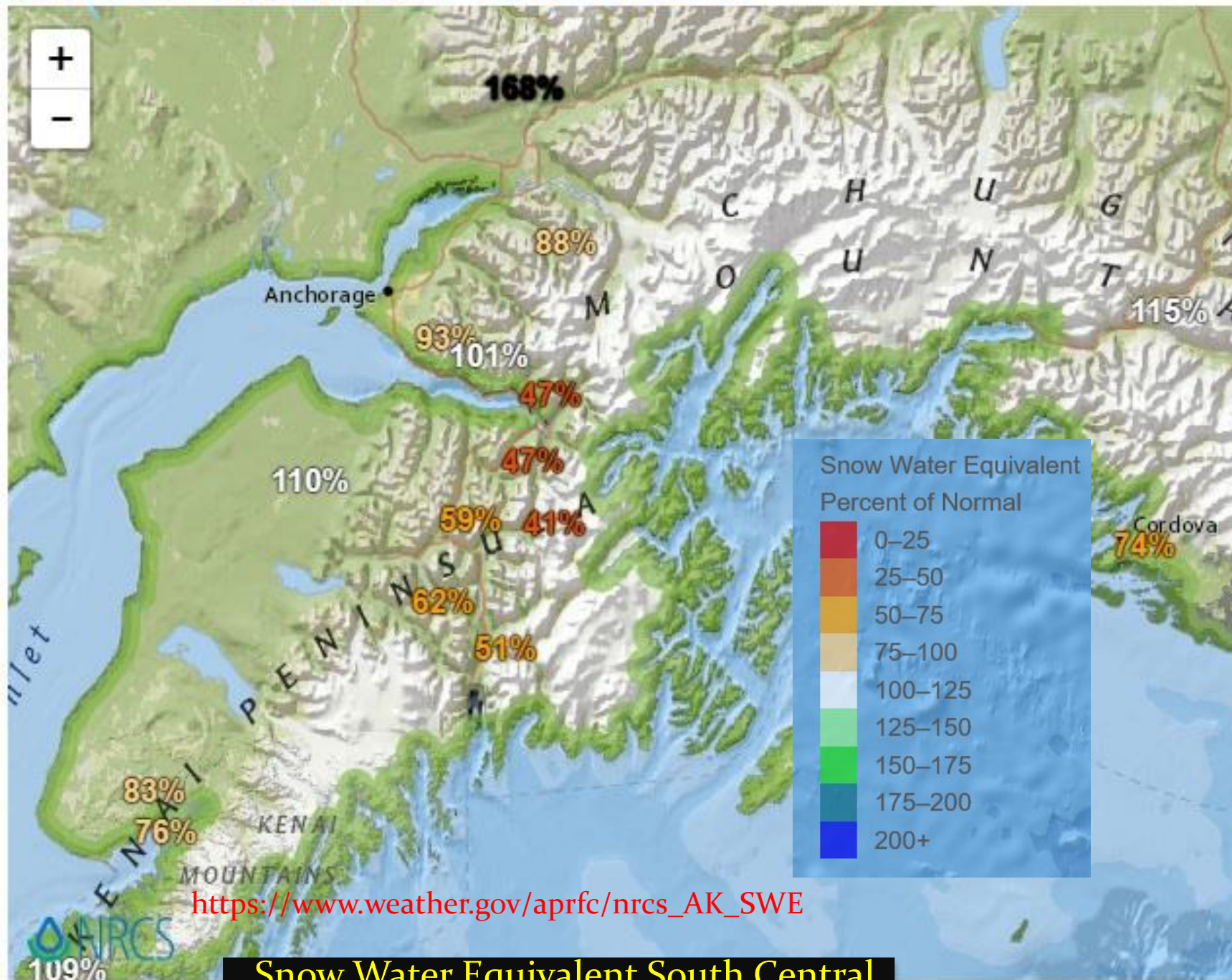


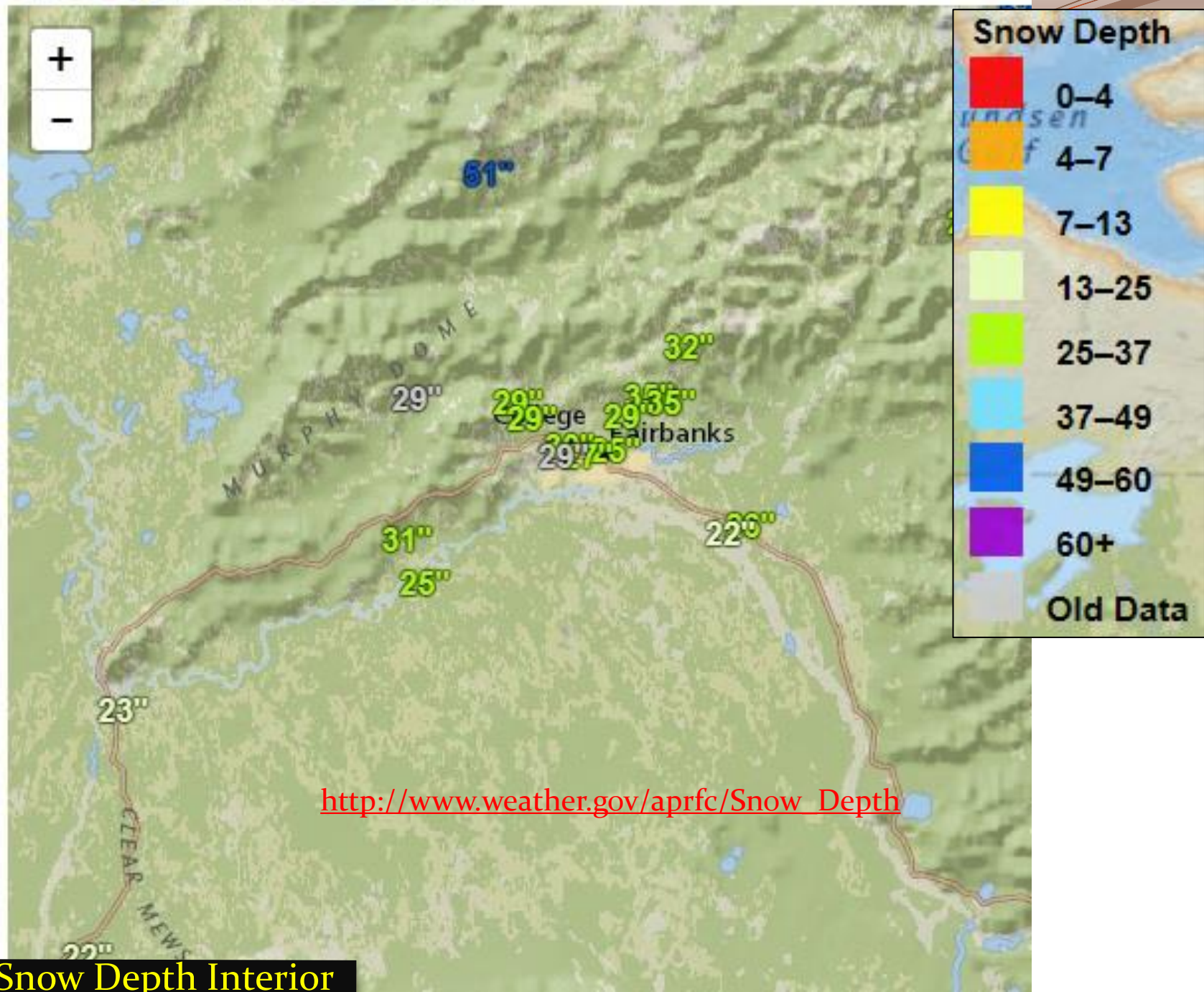
Or will we swim?



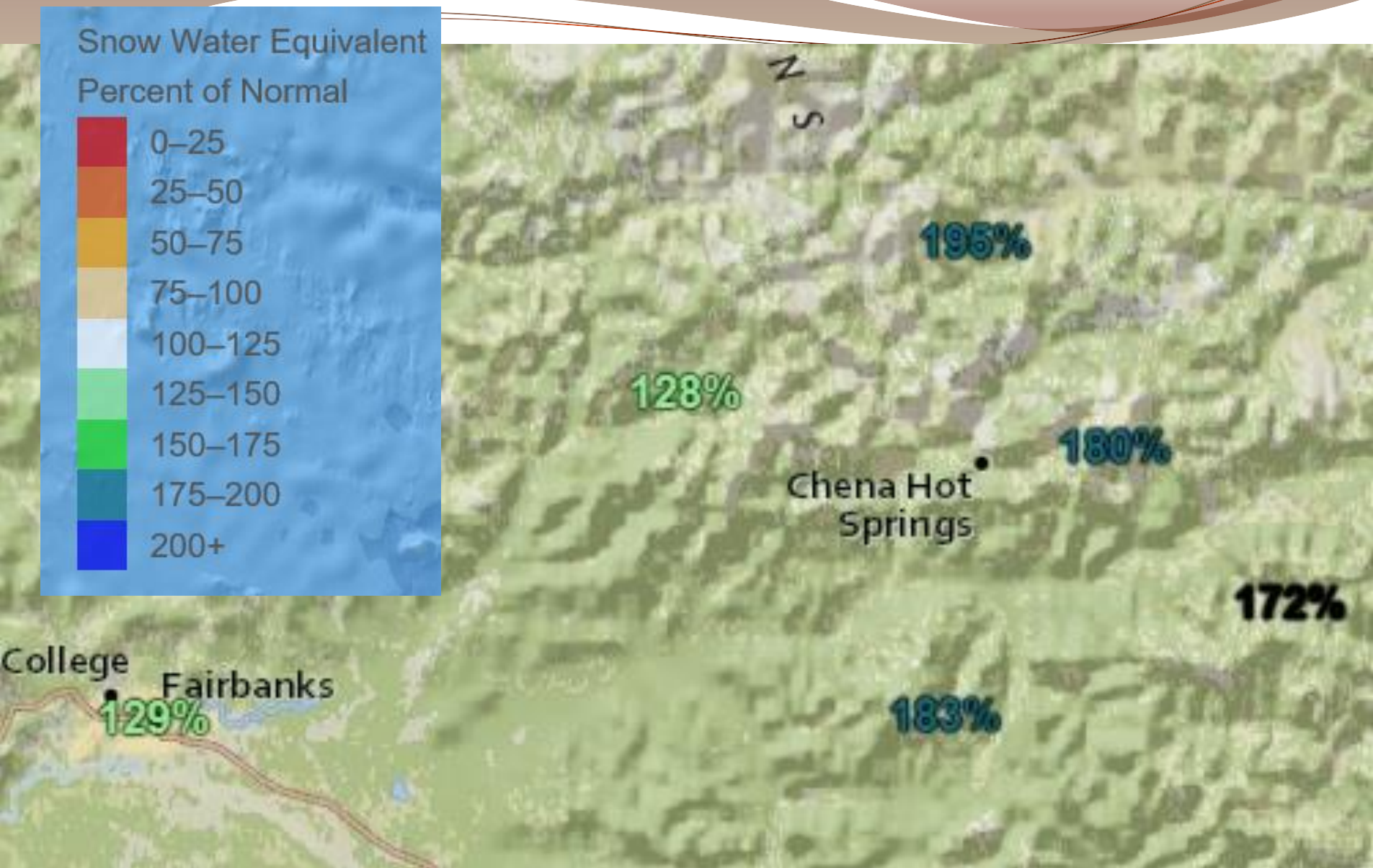


NRCS Snow Water Equivalent - Percent of Normal





http://www.weather.gov/aprfc/Snow_Depth



https://www.weather.gov/aprfc/nrcs_AK_SWE

US Drought Monitor

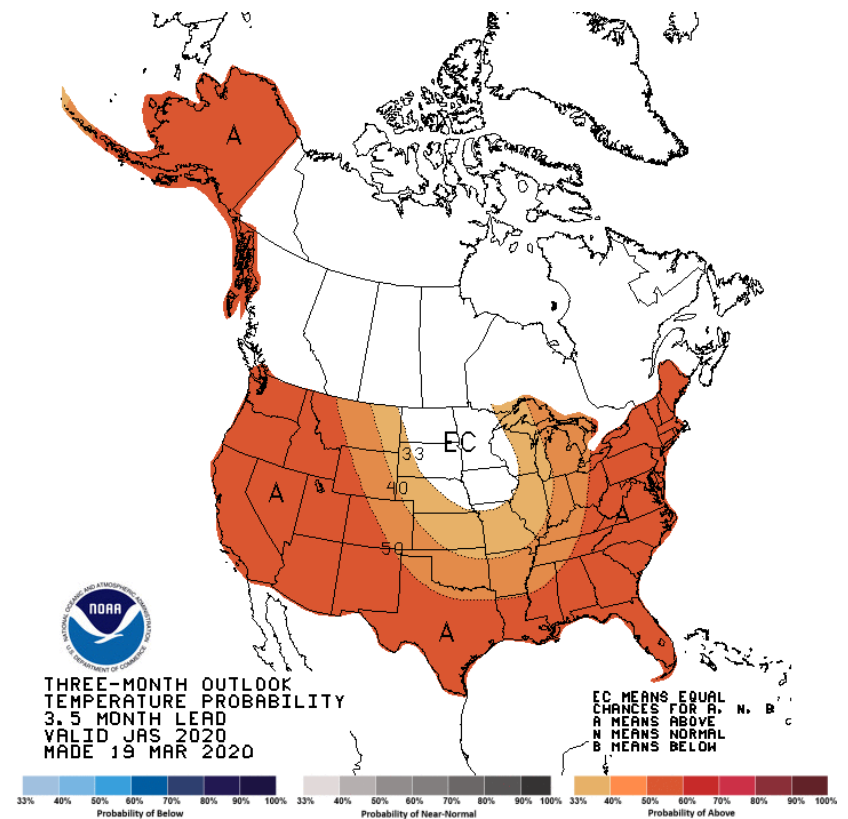
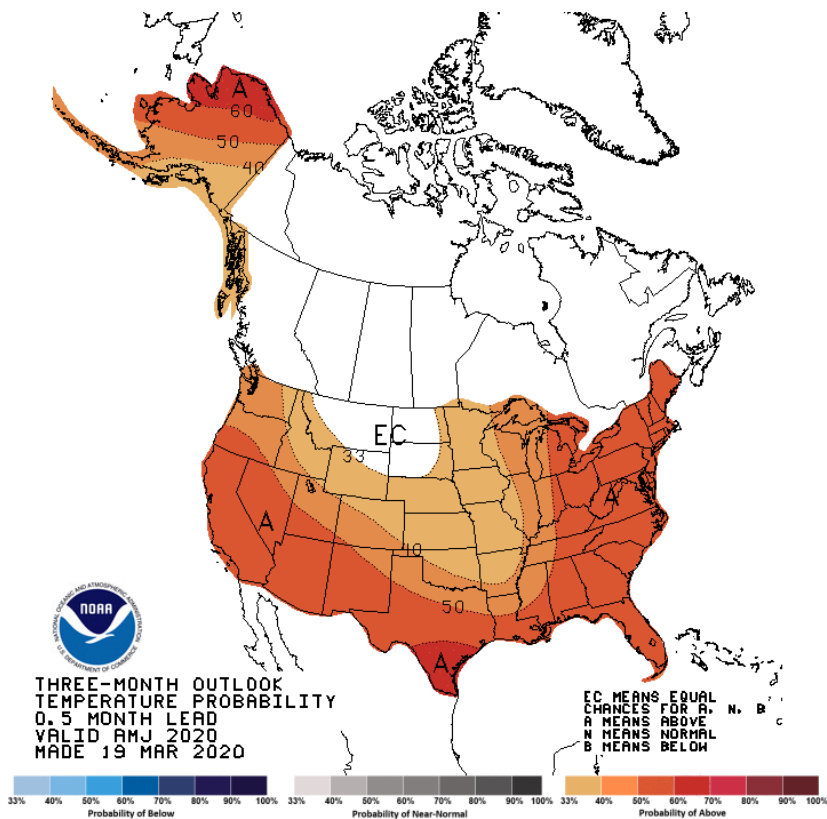
- The map at right highlights the portions of Alaska that are in drought status as of April, 2020: None!
- Past couple of years had featured mild to moderate drought over the Southeast Panhandle



2020 Temperature Forecast

April-May-June

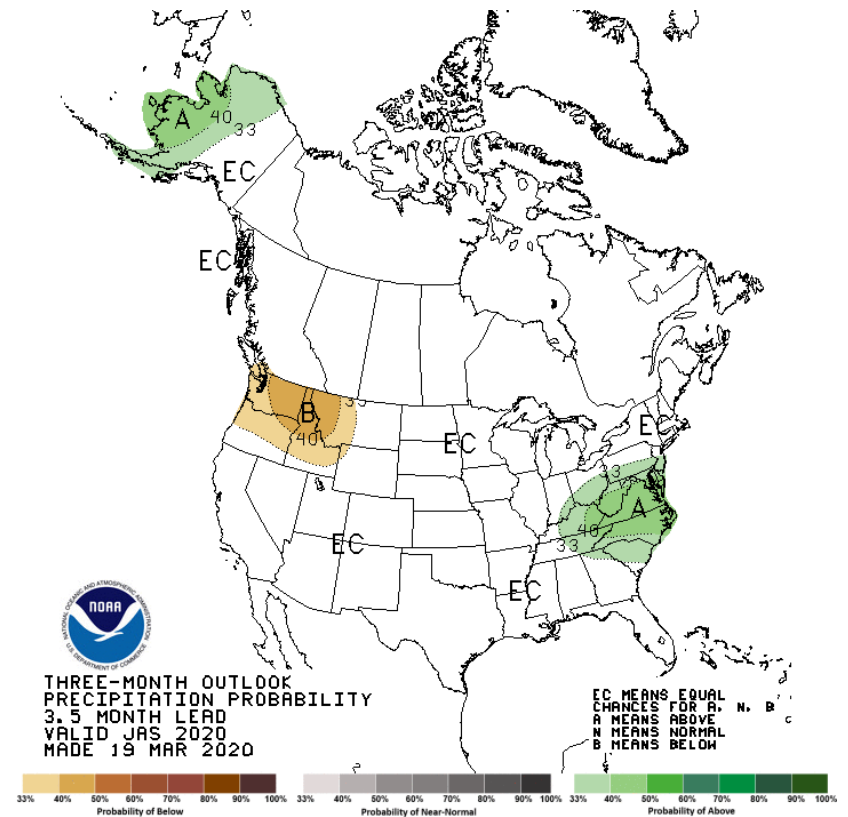
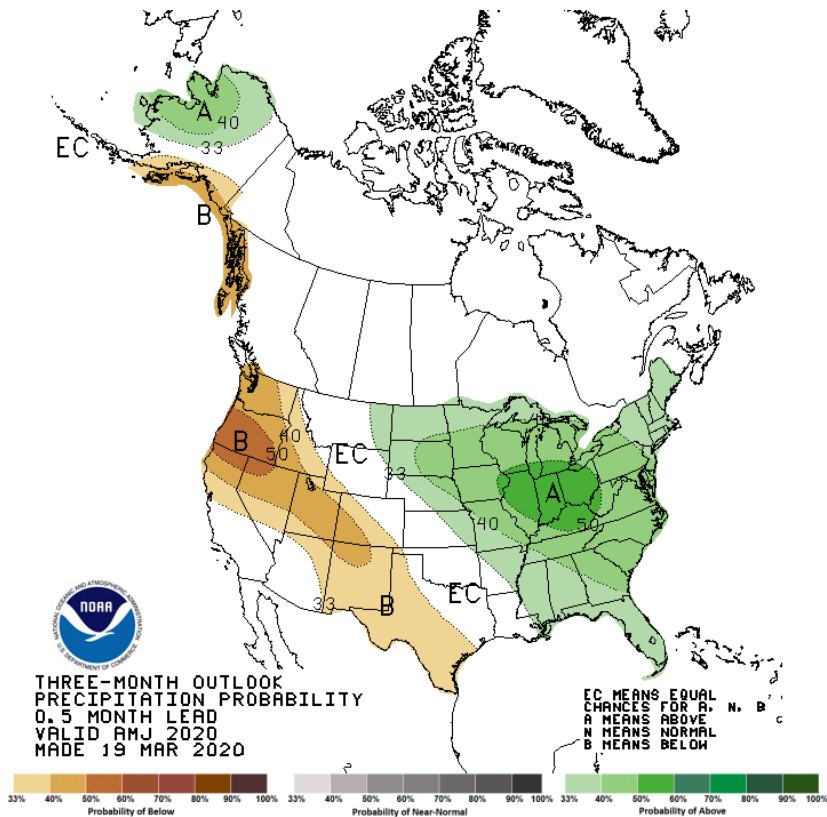
July-August-September



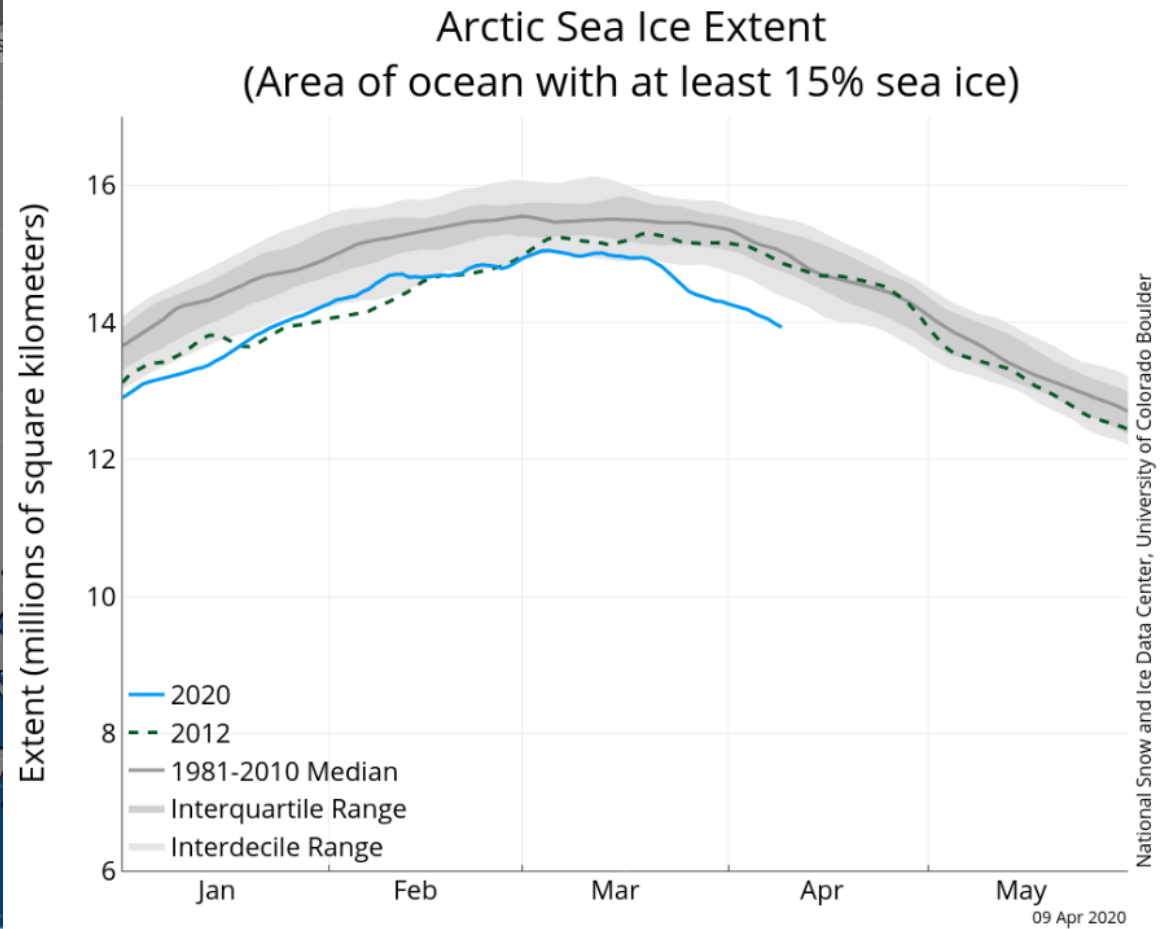
2020 Precipitation Forecast

April-May-June

July-August-September



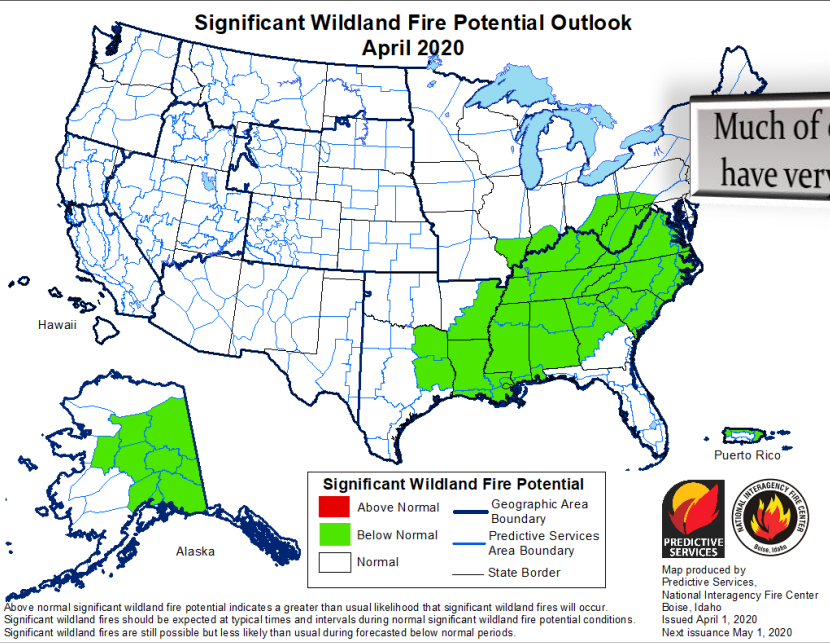
Arctic Sea Ice



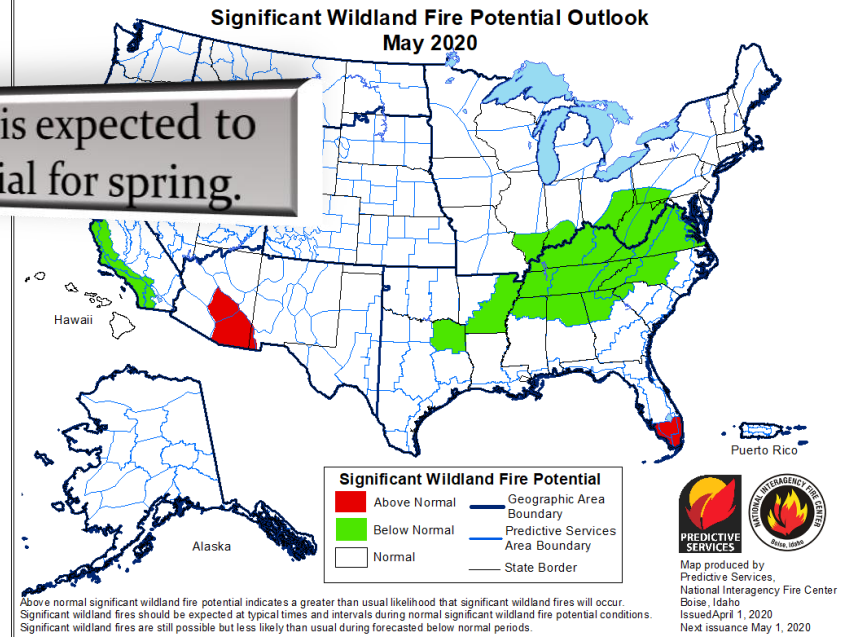
So, about our fire season...

- Warmer than normal conditions expected to continue statewide again this spring and summer. Precipitation is truly unknown.
- Going into the season with a healthy snowpack in the Interior, with less robust snow in South Central. Temperatures are expected to be warm in April, but the snowpack in place suggests a normal or even slow start to the fire season.
- Still no indicators that we can bank on for mid-summer.
- This leads to...

Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook
April 2020



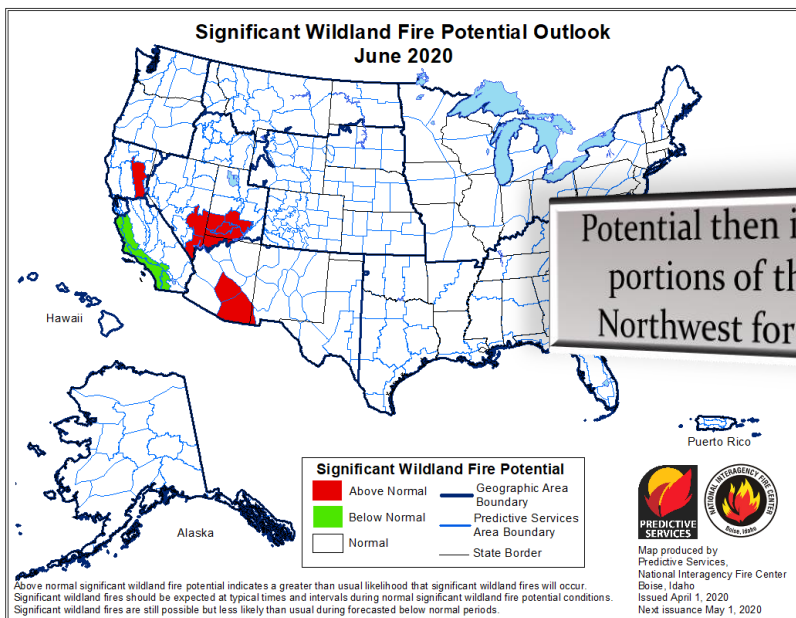
Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook
May 2020



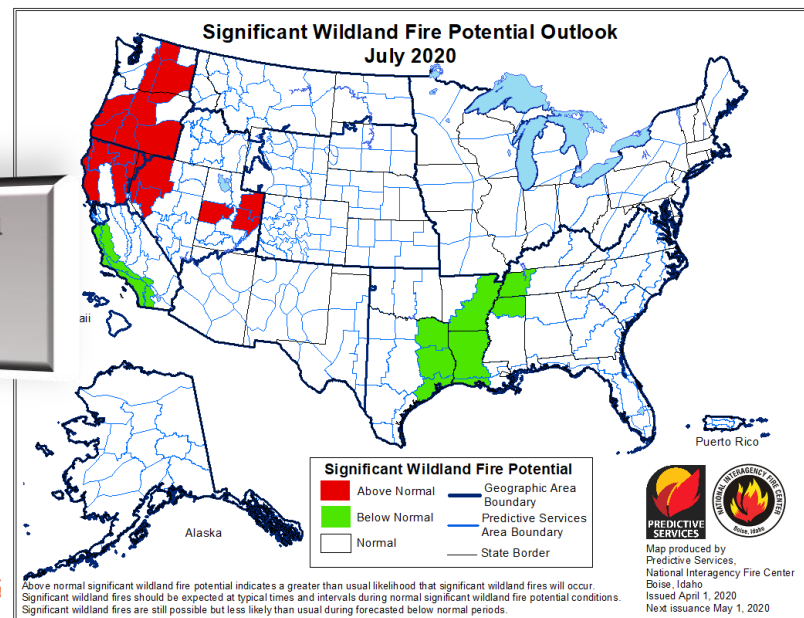
National Outlook

2020

Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook
June 2020



Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook
July 2020



tive/outlooks

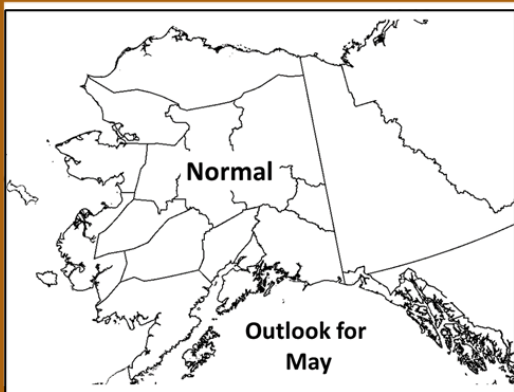
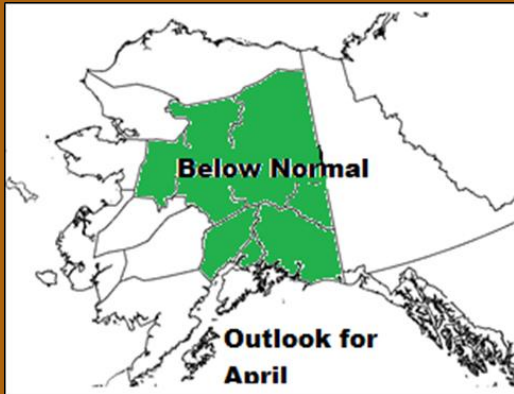
Alaska Monthly Fire Potential Outlook

Forecast:

- Alaska is transitioning into fire season with a forecast of below normal potential expected for April, with a return to normal for May through July. As snow retreats in the southernmost parts of the state, human-caused fires will begin in April, spreading into central and northern Alaska by the end of April and early May. By late May, most of the state will be snow-free, and fire activity will be on the rise, reaching its peak with more lightning starts around the summer solstice.

Factors:

- The U.S. Drought Monitor shows normal conditions over all of Alaska. There had been some drought issues in South Central Alaska as well as in the Southeast Panhandle last year, but the precipitation over this winter has helped to mitigate those concerns. As of early April, the snowpack over much of Interior Alaska had a liquid water content at or above climatological normal.
- CPC outlook maps indicate warmer than normal conditions for Alaska this spring and summer.
- Precipitation forecasts have notoriously little skill in Alaska, but all long range forecasts are indicating the likelihood for higher than normal precipitation.
- As parts of the state become snow free, Calculations of the CFFDRS will start. Increasing temperatures will thaw the ground, allowing fuels to start drying. Though ignitions are unlikely for the first few weeks, fuels in parts of southern AK will probably be burnable by late-April.





That covers it!

Questions?

heidi_strader@nps.gov

eric_stevens@nps.gov